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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.**

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM - LD 24-62
RELEASE IN FULL 1995 31 May 1962

SUBJECT: Management and Direction of Overhead Reconnaissance Activities

TO: Office of the Director of Central Intelligence
Attn: Assistant for Coordination

1. I have reviewed your informal memorandum to me of 21 May 1962 and agree generally with the recommendations concerning management and control of the intelligence aspects of overhead reconnaissance programs and products. It is essential that arrangements between the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency be formalized and focused at a relatively high level within each agency for the most effective administration of these programs.

2. In anticipation of such a requirement for specialized management of overhead reconnaissance matters within the Defense Intelligence Agency, and a need for the maintenance of a centralized interdepartmental coordinating mechanism, I have recently established a Special Activities Office which is directly responsive to me and to my Command section. This office has the staff responsibility for the intelligence aspects of overhead reconnaissance within the DOD. This includes providing DIA representation on boards and committees which concern themselves with the national effort. Thus, it is expected that this staff entity will provide an effective means for discharging my responsibilities as they pertain to the several costly and sensitive, yet most productive intelligence systems.

3. It is my understanding that you also have been considering changes in your staff structure in light of the increasing complexity and variety of sensor systems being incorporated into the National Reconnaissance Office management structure. Heretofore primary emphasis has been placed upon photography and as you point out the COMOR has been an effective instrument. I would agree that the same degree of community collaboration is required concerning reconnaissance systems with electronic sensors.

4. With regard to the specific problem areas cited in your memorandum, I would like to have members of my staff familiar with our views discuss in detail certain possible additions. For example the COMOR may be a possible base for enlarged activities. However, an immediate problem area lies in the utilization and exploitation of sensitive photographic, ELINT, and COMINT materials. The requirement for development of high capacity read-out systems is paramount. Moreover, the selection and training of adequate numbers of photo interpreter personnel must be accomplished on a priority basis.

DIA review(s) completed.

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5. Insofar as mapping and geodesy parameters are concerned, the DIA plan for management of DOD activities is nearing completion. I do believe that, once implemented, it will provide clear guidance as to the needs, requirements, and optimum techniques for mapping and geodesy.

6. I appreciate the opportunity to review and to comment upon your paper. It is a step in the right direction and we will cooperate in every way to overcome problem areas of mutual concern.


JOSEPH F. CARROLL
Lt. General, USAF
Director

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31 May 1962

General Carroll desired that this
document be hand carried.